

International Criminal Court (ICC)

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THEME

Exploring the role of the International Criminal Court

CONTEXT

The International Criminal Court (ICC) plays a crucial role in addressing impunity for the most serious international crimes. This workshop aims to provide participants with a comprehensive understanding of the ICC, including its establishment, functions, challenges, and significance in the realm of international justice.

GOALS

- To educate students/participants about the purpose and mandate of the International Criminal Court
- To explore the historical context and establishment of the ICC
- To explain the structure and functions of the ICC, including its jurisdiction, investigative process, and trial proceedings
- To discuss the challenges and criticisms facing the ICC and its impact on international justice efforts

METHODOLOGY

- Screening of the JustNow animation movie about the ICC to provide foundational knowledge
- Facilitated discussions, group activities, and role-playing exercises to deepen understanding and critical thinking
- Case studies and real-life examples to illustrate the ICC's work and its impact on affected communities
- Multimedia resources, such as videos and articles, to supplement learning and provide diverse perspectives
- Reflection and debriefing sessions to encourage students/participants to process information and express opinions

LEARNING OUTCOMES

- Define the role and jurisdiction of the International Criminal Court
- Describe the historical context and evolution of international criminal justice leading to the establishment of the ICC
- Explain the structure, functions, and procedures of the ICC in investigating and prosecuting international crimes
- Analyze the challenges and criticisms facing the ICC and evaluate its effectiveness in achieving accountability and justice

MATERIAL & EQUIPMENT NEEDED

- Projector and screen for screening the JustNow animation movie
- Printed handouts with key information about the ICC and discussion questions
- Whiteboard or flip chart with markers for group activities
- Laptops or tablets for accessing online resources
- Zoom or other video conferencing platform for online setup
- Pen and paper for note-taking

Overview of activities (process)

Duration: 90 minutes

Introduction & JustNow Animation movie: 10 minutes

The teacher/educator briefly explains what is expected from the students/participants in terms of their participation in this workshop. Afterwards the teacher/educator is screening the Justnow animation movie about the ICC with the goal to provide an overview of its purpose, establishment, and functions.

Historical Context and Establishment of the ICC: 20 minutes

The teacher/educator is facilitating a discussion on the historical context of international criminal justice, including the Nuremberg and Tokyo Tribunals and the ad hoc international criminal tribunals for Yugoslavia and Rwanda. Provide an overview of the Rome Statute and the establishment of the ICC as a permanent international criminal court.

Structure and Functions of the ICC: 20 minutes

Explain the structure of the ICC towards students/participants, including the Office of the Prosecutor, the Pre-Trial Chamber, Trial Chamber, and Appeals Chamber (information on the structure can be found on the official website of the International Criminal Court). Afterwards discuss the ICC's jurisdiction over genocide, war crimes, crimes against humanity, and the crime of aggression. As the last stage of introduction describe the ICC's investigative process, including the role of prosecutors, evidence collection, and trial proceedings.

Challenges and Criticisms Facing the ICC: 25 minutes

Facilitate a discussion on the challenges and criticisms facing the ICC, such as jurisdictional issues, political pressure, and resource constraints. The discussion can be based on the question of the most powerful countries not being signatory members of the Rome Statutes. Encourage participants to consider different perspectives on the ICC's effectiveness and limitations in achieving accountability and justice.

Reflection and Debrief: 15 minutes

Facilitate a reflection session where students/participants share their thoughts and insights from the workshop. Encourage students/participants to discuss the implications of learning about the ICC for their understanding of international justice and human rights.

ADDITIONAL IDEAS ON IMPLEMENTATION

- **JustNow Materials:** Additional JustNow materials can be used as inspiration for additional implementation possibilities, such as the timelines (Yugoslavia's History and Breakup Timeline, Timeline of the Rwandan history and genocide) or the timeline and activity plan on International Criminal Law.
- **Inviting Guest Speakers:** Enhance the workshop experience by inviting guest speakers with expertise in international law, human rights, or conflict resolution to share their insights and experiences related to the ICC. Guest speakers could include legal scholars, ICC staff members, or representatives from non-governmental organizations (NGOs) working on international justice issues.
- **Interactive Workshops:** Offer interactive workshops focusing on specific aspects of the ICC's work, such as investigations, prosecutions, or victims' rights. Students/participants can engage in hands-on activities, case studies, and role-playing exercises to simulate the challenges and decision-making processes faced by ICC personnel and legal practitioners.
- **Community Engagement Projects:** Encourage students/participants to develop community engagement projects aimed at raising awareness about the ICC and promoting support for international justice initiatives. Projects could include organizing educational events, conducting outreach campaigns, or collaborating with local organizations to advocate for accountability and human rights.
- **Simulated ICC Trial:** Facilitate a simulated ICC trial where students/participants take on roles as prosecutors, defense attorneys, witnesses, and judges to recreate a real-life ICC case (based on our MICC Program idea - www.model-icc.org). Students/participants can conduct legal research, prepare evidence, and present arguments during the trial simulation, gaining practical experience in courtroom procedures and legal advocacy.

HOMEWORK IDEAS

- **Research Assignment:** Assign students/participants to research a specific case or trial conducted by the ICC, analyzing the legal and ethical implications and its impact on international justice.
- **Debate Preparation:** Task students/participants with preparing arguments for or against a specific criticism or challenge facing the ICC, such as its jurisdiction over non-member states or the role of the United Nations Security Council in referring cases to the ICC.
- **Policy Analysis:** Have students/participants analyze international treaties and agreements related to the ICC, evaluating their effectiveness in promoting accountability and preventing impunity for international crimes.
- **Creative Expression:** Encourage students/participants to express their understanding of the ICC and its significance through creative projects such as artwork, poetry, or multimedia presentations, highlighting key themes and messages learned from the workshop.

ONLINE ADAPTATION

This activity plan can be easily implemented in online set-ups, utilizing breakout rooms for small group discussions and activities. As well, the usage of pooling features to gather feedback and facilitate interactive discussions can be used, as well as the usage of the chat function for questions and comments of the students/participants. During the implementation in an online set-up, a shared screen option can be used for multimedia presentations and videos. As a teacher/educator, you can also provide downloadable resources and links to relevant articles or reports for further exploration.



Co-funded by the
Erasmus+ Programme
of the European Union

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